

THE

HOOSIER

STAMP

A MONTHLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO PHILATELY.

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VOLUME I.

NUMBER 4.

CHARLES E. BABCOCK, EDITOR. INDIANAPOLIS, IND.

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THE HOOSIER STAMP.

VOL. 1.

APRIL 1, 1892.

NO. 4

"ABOUT THAT AMERICAN."

In my wanderings in quest of letter labels I made the acquaintance of an old gentleman with rather antiquated speech and manners. We met at a little provincial hotel in the north of France, and the mere fact of our both speaking English served as an introduction to each other. He was an American by birth and was traveling by very easy stages to Paris, where he had never been, and which place he wished to see before he died. He seemed very reserved, but in a short time confided to me his history or rather an episode in his life which made him so different from the ordinary American. It was one evening, while we were sitting over the fire, that the conversation turned on stamps. "Just too late I have learned the value of old postage stamps," he remarked very slowly, and it seemed rather sadly, too. "How so?" My curiosity was aroused. "What have you to do with stamps, seeing you're no collector?"

"Ah! If I could only tell you. It is such a romantic yet fearful experience that I scarcely feel inclined to relate it to you, a stranger almost, as it would seem too improbable to you. No one, save the members of my own family know it, and by mutual consent we have agreed to keep quiet on that point, rather than be brought into prominent notice, and in all probability severely ridiculed. However as I doubt if we shall ever meet again I will relate as far as I can my experience.

I settled myself comfortably in my chair, and was all attention. Our glasses being refilled, he began: "Many years ago, I was in business in the United States. The village was called Black Gully. It exists no longer for a large manufacturing town now covers the site. I owned the house and land we lived on. By "we", I mean my wife and three youngsters. It will interest you perhaps to know that the cheap postage had not been very long in existence and that I used to receive small sum through the post in stamps. My business was a general one and any slight excess in cash in ordering from town was often returned in stamps. One day in winter, as was my custom, I went out hunting, and then something happened which I cannot account for, and can scarcely believe except for the incontrovertible evidence. A storm came up, causing me to lose my way in the wood. Instead of getting out I went further in. Finally through fatigue and excess of cold I lost consciousness. I came to, sometime after, and could not remember where I was. I tried hard to bring to my mind how I had been sleeping out of doors, and in such miserable clothes. I got up, my clothes looked very shabby and dirty, and walked some distance till I emerged from the forest, and noticed a small farm-house not very far off, a house that I did not remember having seen when I came out the day before. That did not puzzle me as much as did the weather. I then remembered I had come when snow was on the ground, and

here was not a sign of it. The weather was too warm. I went up to the farmhouse and by my appearance must have considerably startled a young woman and child who were standing at the door, and who ran inside with a scream as I approached. A man came out and ordered me off the farm, saying that he allowed no tramps thereabouts. With great difficulty I got him to listen to me, and in the end I found him to be my youngest son."

I started at that, and thought the old man was mad.

"I see that you start at what I say. If you, an acquaintance, feel incredulous, what would total stranger say to the story? Cannot you now see why we do not let the world know about this? Yes, he was my youngest son who had lost me and mourned me as dead since he was six years old. It dawned on me then that, like Rip, I had slept for 30 years in a death-like trace. But truth is stranger than fiction. The strangest part is to follow. At least it will appear the strangest to you as you are one of these new-fangled stamp collectors. When I went hunting on that memorable day I carried with me a wallet, this had not suffered as much had my clothes, being made of stout leather. My son Dick cared for me and notified the other members of the family of my resurrection, for it can go by no other name. Soon after I settled down to the order of things, I began corresponding with my other two sons, and for the purpose of franking the letters had taken two stamps from my wallet. Besides one or two bills and old letters there were only eight unused stamps in the book, so I thought I had better

use them. After mailing three letters my son saw the fourth, and said, 'Dad you can't send a letter with stamp like that, they won't pass at the post office.' 'But,' said I, 'I have already stamped three that way and have had' replies. Besides, when I was in Black Gully stamps from Brattleboro were good enough any day for franking letters.' Well, I had my way over the letters and used my old stamps. A few weeks after that occurrence my son came to me in a very excited manner saying, 'Dad, have you got any of those old stamps left? They are worth a heap of money.' 'Sonny, have you gone clean out of your mind? Those stamps are worth nothing except for use through the post.' 'But they are.' Then followed long explanations, and I learned for the first time of the mania of collecting old stamps. I looked for my stamps and found that I had used the last a few days ago. Dick wrote his brother asking him if there were any peculiar stamps on the letters from their old father, if there were to send the envelopes back. We waited anxiously for an answer, it came at last and was unsatisfactory, the stamps were all ordinary ones. At this Dick got angry and determined to go to his brother and find out the truth. He went and brought back some of the old envelopes. They one and all had on the ordinary American stamps. Now Dick had seen me put one on, and seen the remainder in my hand. I being old did not trouble much about the little pieces of paper but Dick acted differently. On a Brattleboro stamp being advertised for sale he made enquiries, which resulted in the discovery that one of the post officials in our

town was a rabid collector of stamps, and seeing my stamps, had substituted the ordinary stamps for them. He got seven unused Brattleboro' stamps, the eighth being lost in the mail. A while after that, when I got to know stamp collectors, I heard from one or another of the great value attached to the stamps I had thus really thrown away. Do you still wonder why it is that I learnt the value of old stamps to late?"

Then to himself he muttered "If I only had one stamp left!" Here he took out an old wallet, opened it and began studying an old letter in just the same manner as when he went into the reverie at the beginning of the evening. He came to suddenly and left me rather abruptly. It was nearly midnight, so I went to bed. I never saw the old gentleman again, for I left before he was up the next day.

Several weeks later I met a brother collector and related him the above story. While I was telling it he seemed pleased, and on conclusion he burst out laughing. "So you were in, too. I wonder how many he has pitched that yarn to. Don't you know who that old gentleman was?" I did not, and felt a trifle hurt at my friends laughing at me. "Why, its Felton, the old actor, who delights in playing jokes. He has told that same tale to a dozen other collectors, vary it to suit his aubiance."

I felt slightly relieved to know that I was not the only one taken in by him.

Choice wines soon put me in good humor, and now I laugh at laugh at the way I was had by Old Rip and the Brattleboro's. *Vindin's Monthly. (Australia.)*

Sons of Philatelia.

The growth of the S. of P. has truly been marvelous: from a small insignificant society a year ago, it has grown to be the second largest Philatelia Society in the U. S., having at this date (March 2,) 186 members.

The benefits of this Society are as large, if not larger, than most societies, viz: Ex. Dept., Monthly Auction Sales, Purchasing Agency, Collecting Bureau, (for collecting of bad debts), and a Philatelic Library, all of which are conducted by experienced philatelists. While offering special inducements to beginners, we will endeavor to make it profitable to ANY collector, however advanced, to become a member.

Any honest collector can become a member of this society. Initiation fee 5 cents. Dues 25 cents per year. R. M. Miller, Sec'y, New Chester, Pa.

ROYAL "CRANKS."

The late Duke of Edinburg was an enthusiastic collector and a member of the Philatelic Society of London.

Alexander Czar of Russia is an ardent collector of stamps and birds eggs.

The Prince Regent of Bavaria has a large collection of beetles—the most complete in Germany—and is also an observer of the habits of ants, flies, moths, etc.

The King of Rumania has a large and valuable collection of autograpths.

Prince George, the heir presumptive to the throne of England, is a stamp collector, having the largest collection in that country, excluding that of the late Mr. Tapling, now in the British Museum.

"TIPS" FOR THE DEALER.

"To catch the eye" in advertising is, or should be, the object of every dealer, with that end in view you should take some thought in the preparation of your advertising so as to make it original and "catchy".

When your 'ad' does not pay you do not be too hasty in laying the blame on the paper, as the 'ad' itself may not be of a nature to attract attention, and even if it is the article you advertise may be priced above market price. In either case you cannot expect many returns.

When filling an order always write your patron a personal letter thanking him for his patronage and asking a continuance of the same. It takes time, but it shows the collector that you appreciate his trade.

We believe, that in proportion to the circulation, the advertising rates of many of our philatelic papers are too high. Yet the publisher cannot afford to lessen his advertising rates on account of the low subscription price. Thus the dealer suffers for the benefit of the subscriber.

But, by increasing the subscription rates the circulation would be lowered and advertising space would be of less value. The present rates will remain the same until a Publishers Protective Association is formed and the rates changed in unison.

While it is usually best to advertise in papers of large circulation, it is not policy to forget the small paper, as it has, no doubt, some subscribers that do

not receive any other philatelic paper. By patronizing a small paper you help the publisher improve the paper and by sufficient encourage the small paper may blossom out into a credible journal and become a benefit to philately.

There is too much carelessness among dealers in the preparation of their advertising matter. Nearly all seem to think that the more words they can crowd into a one inch space the better the 'ad'. Not so, use originality in the preparation of your advertisement and do not be stingy with space, it costs more but it pays in the end.

S. T. AMP.

A Difference of Opinion.

The editor of the *Post Office* in a recent number of that paper has an article entitled "The Fewer the Better." We are very much surprised to see Mr. Davidson take the stand he does against philatelic societies, other than the A. P. A. To sum up the entire article he wants every collector to join the A. P. A., and gives as a reason, "because the A. P. A. publishes its own official journal." Philatelists who have watched the course of the A. P. A. are wise, and instead of paying \$2.50 for a year's membership for the privilege of getting the *American Philatelist* now subscribe yearly at .50 cents. What inducement does the A. P. A. offer to the great army of young collectors? None whatever.

State societies are a boon to the average philatelist. There can always be promptness in the state societies in regard to the exchange departments. But, Mr. Davidson would abolish all

state organizations. The trouble is some of the members of the A. P. A., seeing some of the other society on the road to success are begining to worry about the future of that organization.

Mr. Davidsons statement that the A. P. A. is five times as large as any other society is utterly false. The Galveston Philatelic Association, the Chicago Philatelic Society and the National Philatelic Society, New York each have over 200 members. The A. P. A. may be all right in its place but it is not to absorb all the similar organization.

X. Y. Z.

AMONG OUR EXCHANGES.

The *Southern Philatelist* edited by, the philatelic Bill Nye, Gus Luhn is one of our most valued exchanges.

The *Michigan Philatelist* is a new one from Detroit. The *Detroit Philatelist* is announed, and the *Effort* will, hereafter, be devoted to philately exclusively. It seems as though philately is booming in Michigan.

The *American Philatelist and Collector* appears much improved, having donned handsome spring overcoat, its voting contest is now ended Mr. John K. Tiffany being decided the most popular philatelist in America.

The *Philatelic Fraud Reporter* seems to be making the frauds' life miserable, at least we would suppose so judging from the long list it publishes monthly.

The *Eagle Philatelist* for February contains a portrait of Mr. H. C. Beard'sley, a well known collector and

writer, besides its usual quota of interesting philatelic news.

The *Collector*, the official organ of the Sons of Philatelia, that once had the distinction of being the smallest philatelic paper published, is now improved and presents a very credible appearance.

The *Philatelic Era* and *Eastern Philatelist*, both eastern papers come to hand promptly full of interesting articles, notes etc. They are, without doubt, the best philatelic papers published, but it is impossiable to tell which is the better of the two.

We note a great improvement in the *Oologist*, the leading paper its class in America.

The Mound City Stamp Co. of St. Louis has failed, this will cause the *Stamp Collectors Companion* to be discontinued. We regret this as it was one of the best philatelic papers published.

President J. D. Bartlett, of the S. of P. has greatly improved his paper, the *Curiosity Collector*.

The *Spy Glass* will here after be devoted, exclusively, to philately. We can't see what object Mr. Greene has in changing it, as it always contained about as much stamp news as the average philatelic paper.

The *Collectors' Journal*, of Jackson, Mich., having failed to secure second class rates, is now issued as an advertising medium of the Central City Stamp Co.

One Dime reaches our sanctum(?) in an enlarged and improved form, it is now in its fifth volume and has come to stay, at least, the editor says so.

THE HOOSIER STAMP.

A Monthly Philatelic Magazine.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

To U. S. and Canada 25 cents per year.

Abroad 40 cents per year.

ADVERTISING RATES.

50 cents per inch, regardless of time or space occupied.

Address all communications to
Harold Van Trump, Publisher.
ROCHESTER, INDIANA.

Chas. E. Babcock, Editor.
244 College Ave,
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA.

EDITORIAL.

After some time we again make our appearance, somewhat enlarged and improved. This is due to our uniting with Mr. Harold Van Trump, who will act in the capacity of publisher. Hereafter we will appear promptly on the first of each month.

With the next issue we intend to double our size, circulation, subscription and advertising rates. Collectors and dealers will find it to their advantage to accept of the present rates.

Considerable trouble was experienced in getting this number printed the difficulty was finally overcome by the publisher leasing a job office and doing it himself.

The small sized postal card seems to be the prevailing style among the sample copy fiends as we have received a barrel full (?) since the announcement of our paper, all bearing that well worn phrase "please send me a sample copy and oblige."

For despondency, arising from a lack of business—A liberal application of printer's ink on the pages of this paper is a sure remedy.

Among the other good things we have on hand for the next number is a portrait and biography of Mr. S. S. Atwood, of Philadelphia, Pa. It would have appeared in this issue had the cut arrived in time.

We see that Remenvi, the celebrated violin virtuoso is a curiosity collector, and has made application for a space, of not less than 400 square feet, at the Worlds Fair in which to exhibit his collection.

Exchanges will please send 2 copies, one to the office of publication, the other to the editor.

With the next number we will open an exchange column, this will be free to subscribers only, others will be charged one cent per word.

We want every stamp dealer to try an advertisement in this paper. We will allow 10 per cent discount from our regular rates (50 cents per inch) on all ads sent us within 10 days after the mailing of this number. This is done only to get every dealer to give us, at least, a trial, knowing it will only take a trial to convince you that this is the best philatelic advertising medium extant. Advertising must be paid for in advance.

The *American Collector* will not appear as announced. All subscriptions and advertising contracts will be filled by this paper.

We send out a number of sample copies with this issue. If you receive one consider it an invitation to subscribe.

We wish to apologize to our readers for the contents of this number. Owing to the lack of time in preparation we found it impossible to obtain much original matter but we promise you some excellent reading next month.

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If so write to me, as I make a specialty of philatelic printing and can do it for less than other printers. I quote prices on a few jobs below.

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Contains over 100 used and unused stamps, all different, catalogued at over \$2.00. Price 50 cents, post free. 4 stamps in this packet are alone worth the price of the entire packet, while many are catalogued from 5 to 10 cents each.

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